

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/656,484

Examiner

Kuen S. Lu

Applicant(s)

ALFORD ET AL.

Art Unit

2167

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to January 5, 2006.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-20 and 23-24 (renumbered to 1-22).
3. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. After a thorough search and examination of the present application, and in light of the prior art made of record and Applicant's Amendments and Remarks filed January 5, 2006, Claims 1-20 and 23-24 are allowed.

Priority

2. It is acknowledged and considered that a reference to the prior Application No. 60/153,099, filed September 9, 1999 has been inserted as the first sentence(s) of the specification of this application to rely on the filing date of the prior application under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

Drawings

3. The drawings filed July 1, 2004 are accepted.

Reason for Allowable

4. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

In the Examiner's Office Action for non-Final Rejection of October 12, 2005, 35 U.S.C. 35 U.S.C. § 103, rejections was primarily based on the reference of Oracle@ Applications, Concepts, Release 11i, May 2000, Oracle Corporation, (hereafter "**OraCon**") and in view of Oracle Engineering User Guide, Release 11i, January 2000, Oracle@, (hereafter "**OraEng**"); Using Oracle US Federal HRMS - The Fundamentals, Release 11i, January 2000, Oracle@, (hereafter "**OraHR**"); and Oracle Purchasing User's Guide, Release 11i, January 2000, (hereafter "**OraPO**").

In the Remarks and Amendments filed January 5, 2006, concerning combining the four Oracle@ Financial Applications, Release 11i documents (OraCon, OraEng, OraHR

and OraPO), the Applicant argued that there is no suggestion or motivation for the combination nor the combination of the primary Oracon reference, the secondary OraEng reference, the tertiary OraHR reference, and the quaternary OraPO reference that would produce the specific combination of elements of Applicants' amended claims 1-20, 23, and 24. Further, the Applicant argued there is no teaching of combining the primary Oracon reference, the secondary OraEng reference, the tertiary OraHR reference, and the quaternary OraPO reference to meet Applicants' amended claims 1-20, 23, and 24 now presented for examination.

After further review of the search results previously conducted and Applicant's most currently amended claims, and consideration of the above Remarks and amended claims 1 and 16, the Examiner is persuaded that the prior art made of record does not teach the subject matter as combined in the elements of each of the independent claims 1 and 16 as described above.

An expanded and update search for the prior arts on EAST database and on domains (EAST, NPL-ACM, Google, NPL-IEEE, Oracle.com) has been conducted. The prior arts searched and investigated in the database and domains does not fairly teach or suggest the teaching of the claimed subject matter as reflected by the combined elements in the independent claims 1 and 16.

The dependent claims in the groups (2-15) and (17-20 and 23-24), depending claims 1 and 16, respectively, also distinct from the prior art for the same reason.

5. Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."


Contact Information

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Kuen S Lu whose telephone number is (571) 272-4114. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday (8:00 am-5:00 pm). If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's Supervisor, John Breene can be reached on (571) 272-4107. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for Page 13 published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 886-217-9197 (toll free).

Kuen S. Lu, Patent Examiner, March 13, 2006

KSL


KUI S. LU
PRIMARY EXAMINER